
Title: Funa Yurei

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It is said that when a
boat puts out to sea on
New Year's Eve, it will
draw the attention of
the Funa Yurei. The Funa
Yurei are the ghosts of
those who have drowned
and haunt the cold
darkness at the bottom
of the sea. The centuries
have made them bitter
and angry with the living.
When a ship passes, they
still the wind and waters
so the ship may not
escape.

Then they float up to
the surface and take a
more human appearance,
with gaunt pale faces and
wearing clothing the color
of snow. They will
stretch a hand up
through the waves and
ask "Lend us a spoon.
Please lend us a spoon."

Those who give the
ghosts a spoon are very
unfortunate. The single
spoon will divide and split
into hundreds, and the
Funa Yurei will begin to
ladle water into the boat
until it sinks. The sailors
who try to swim to
safety are dragged down
to join the spirits. A
wise captain will always
carry a spoon with holes
drilled in it so that the
ghosts are unable to sink
the ship.

Sometimes the ghosts are
drawn to whatever caused
their ship to sink. To see
the Funa Yurei is a very

poor omen indeed.